



Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI)

Status of the Pacific Regional Audit Initiative (PRAI)

May 2010

PASAI Mandate and Objectives

PASAI promotes transparent, accountable, effective, and efficient use of public sector resources in the Pacific.

PASAI contributes to that goal by helping its member SAs improve the quality of public sector auditing in the Pacific to uniformly high standards.

To that objective, PASAI's mandate is to strengthen understanding, co-operation and coordination between its members by advocating the interest in good governance and build and sustain auditing capacity while assisting its members to perform their auditing functions. It also serves as a regional working group of INTOSAI and encourage co-operation with other regional working groups.

PRAI

The Pacific Regional Audit Initiative (PRAI) is a Pacific Plan initiative.

The PRAI's overarching objective is to raise Pacific public auditing to uniformly-high standards.

This in turn is expected to improve transparency and accountability in managing and using public resources.

PASAI Congress

The Kiribati National Audit Office (KNAO) has advised that 20 or so individuals have already registered to attend the PASAI Congress. There was also interest from a SA in Europe. Participants will be sent copies of presentations for the Congress by 21 June 2010.

PASAI Secretariat

A number of applications were received for the Technical and Methodology Advisor position after the position was re-advertised in May 2010. Applicants have been shortlisted for interviews, which will be conducted on 4 June 2010. The successful applicant should be on board before the Capacity Building "Kick-Off" Conference commencing 21 June. The successful applicant will be coordinating and assisting the 3 working groups that will be developing manuals for financial audit, performance audit and human resources management.

Capacity Building "Kick Off Conference"

The preparations for the Capacity Building "Kick-off" Conference to be held at Mercure Hotel Auckland between 21 and 29 June are almost completed. Participants should be receiving their conference documents and airline tickets soon.

PASAI Cooperative Performance Audit

The Cooperative Performance Audit on Solid Waste Management (SWM) is progressing well. To date, 9 of the 10 participating SAs have completed the exit interviews with the relevant government agencies and are waiting for comments. One of the SAs has signed off its audit report.

The Cooperative Audit Advisor is finalizing the draft regional report of the audit based on the findings of the 10 SAs audits. The draft report should be completed on 4 June and will be tabled in the PASAI Governing Board and Kiribati Congress in July 2010. The report will not be made public until all SAs' reports have been tabled in their legislatures.

PASAI Sub-regional Audit Support (SAS) Program

The SAS committee had a successful meeting in Suva on 17 and 18 May and a report on the first round of the program has been received from the experts. The meeting provided an opportunity to the Auditors General and client representatives of the 3 countries to exchange views on the audits. The program results also served as benchmark for future work and in the development of plans for the second round of the program, which the group completed successfully at the end of the meeting.

The meeting also confirmed the same entities covered in the first round will again be audited in this round of the program so as to build on the competence of SAs and clients. A new group of 4 secondees were also confirmed.

The second round of the program officially starts with a meeting of experts at PASAI Secretariat on 13 September 2010. The SAS work commences in Tuvalu on 4 October 2010 followed by a 6 weeks Christmas break, and resumes in Nauru on 7 February 2011. The group will take a two-weeks break and starts in Kiribati on 9 May 2011 and finishes on 1 August 2011.

For any clarification of any of the items in this update, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Director by

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ADB has kindly offered under a separate technical assistance to provide support to the program by assisting the 3 countries in the preparation of accounting information to facilitate the SAS Program.

Below is a photo of the SAS Committee.



2009 Accountability and Transparency in the Pacific Region

The Governing Board sub-committee after its deliberations has approved that the 2009 Accountability and Transparency Report and the accompanying commentary be published. The report will be tabled at the Governing Board meeting in Nadi on 5 July 2010 and copies will be distributed during the PASAI Congress in Kiribati. The report will be made available on the PASAI website.

Funding

The AusAID/PASAI Partnership Framework was signed by the Secretary General of PASAI and the AusAID Minister Counsellor during the month. The first tranche of the financial assistance of AUD 1 million was received by PASAI on 24 May 2010. PASAI is overwhelmed by this assistance and hopes to continue this relationship in the future.

Project Management Framework

The Project Management Framework report is being delayed. The PASAI Secretariat hopes to table this report in the Nadi Governing Board meeting.

PASAI Website

The PASAI Website is being developed and should be launched by 30 June 2010. Heads of SAs should confirm with the Secretariat their website addresses so that links could be developed.

PASAI Bulletin

The PASAI Bulletin will be published by the PASAI Secretariat for the first time from June 2010. SAs are encouraged to share in this quarterly publication key developments in their SAs such as audit reports that have been released, impact of audits in the public service and the community in general, interesting audit results that can be shared, INTOSAI meetings attended and briefs of those meetings and other news-worthy items.